1	2	3	4	5
5.	Machinery and instruments	1057.1	1195.7	1143.8
6.	Manufacture of metals	913.5	1023.2	1081.3
7.	Marine products	1128.9	1207.3	1038.2
8.	Leather & manufactures (excluding footwear)	1019.7	1108.4	1077.9
9.	Transport equipments	968.7	929.1	726.1
10.	Manmade textiles, made-ups, etc.	721.5	822.8	720.8

*The figures for 1998-99 are provisional. (Source: DGCI&S)

(c) and (d) The composition of world trade has been undergoing a change. Based on a detailed analysis of available data, a set of next generation export products have been identified which include medical and pharmaceutical products, iron and steel primary forms, textiles yarn, office machines, telecom equipment, passenger motor vehicles, agricultural machinery, chemical products, electronic items including toys.

Embargo on Import of Indian Shrimp

*8. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the U.S.A. Embargo on import of Shrimp from India is still in operation; and

(b) Whether the U.S.A. has implemented the decision of the Dispute Settlement body of the W.T.O. taken in the formal Session held on 6th November, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India along with Malaysia, Thailand and Pakistan had filed a dispute against US regarding the ban imposed on imports of certain shrimps and shrimp products under section 609 of US Public Law under the provisions of Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU). The Panel decided the case in favour of India. US appealed against the Panel's findings. The Appellate Body, while ruling that section 609 was provisionally justified under Article XX of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, observed that this measure of US has been applied in a manner which constitutes an arbitrary and

unjustifiable discrimination between the members of the WTO, contrary to the requirements of the chapeau of the Article XX of the GATT 1994. The Panel and the Appellate Body report were adopted in the meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) held on 6th November, 1998. It was jointly agreed that the Reasonable Period of Time (RPT) granted to US will be 13 months for implementing the rulings and recommendations of the DSB. **The said RPT which commenced on 6th November, 1998 and will expire on 6th December, 99.**

As regards the exports of shrimps to USA, it may be mentioned that exports of shrimps from India to USA are taking place on the basis of a certificate being given by Marine products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) as prescribed by US Department of State. However, the shrimps harvested from the sea by vessels using mechanical means of net retrieval are not eligible to be exported to USA unless the vessels use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

The US has time till 6th December, 99 to implement the rulings and recommendations of the DSB. As part of the process of implementation, the US's Deptt. of State has revised it's guidelines for implementing Section 609. The revised guidelines, in accordance with the rulings and recomendations of the DSB are intended to (i) introduce greater flexibility in considering the comparability of foreign programmes and the US programmes, which implies that US is willing to consider credible alternate programmes other than use of TEDs. (ii) It has introduced transparency and application of due process in decision making procedures for certifying nations who will be eligible to export shrimps. (iii) It has expanded the list of the exempted harvesting methods.

Further, US has taken initiative for having negotiations with an aim to arrive at an Agreement with the Governments of the Indian Ocean Region on the protection of the sea turtles in that region.

US has also offered technical training in the design, construction, installation and operation of TEDs to any member country that requests it.

Recommendations by National Commission for Backward Classes for Inclusion of Castes in OBC Category

*9. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: